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Katharine T. Schaffzin

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THE FUTURE OF LAW REVIEWS: ONLINE-ONLY JOURNALS

Katharine T. Schaffzin*

I. INTRODUCTION

Ten years ago, law jobs seemed to dry up in the recession.¹ Although the length and depth of the recession was still uncertain, many continued to enroll in law school presumably hoping that the legal market would turn around by their graduation dates.² More recently, however, many potential law school applicants seem to have put law school plans on hold, perhaps awaiting a more robust market turnaround or a correction in some tuition rates.³ Whatever the reason, for the past several years, law schools have grappled with decreasing enrollment trends.⁴ While the nation continues climbing out

* Katharine T. Schaffzin is Associate Professor and Director of Faculty Development at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. This article was made possible thanks to the support of the Law School, as well as the research assistance of Zachary Burkhalter.

¹ Noam Scheiber, *The Last Days of Big Law*, NEW REPUBLIC.COM (July 21, 2013), <https://newrepublic.com/article/113941/big-law-firms-trouble-when-money-dries>.

² Karen Sloan, *Has Law School Enrollment Hit Rock Bottom?*, THE NAT'L LAW JOURNAL (July 20, 2015), <http://www.nationallawjournal.com/id=1202732508706/Has-Law-School-Enrollment-Hit-Rock-Bottom>.

³ See Robert R. Kuehn, *Pricing Clinical Legal Education*, 92 DENV. U.L. REV. 1, 3 (2014). Law school enrollment numbers have dropped dramatically since 2010 in response to news about reduced employment opportunities. *Id.* at 3–4. In addition, enrollment at ABA accredited law schools fell from a historic high of 147,525 in 2010 to 119,775 in 2014, a decrease of about 18.5%. Mark Hansen, *As Law School Enrollment Drops, Experts Disagree on Whether the Bottom Line is in Sight*, ABA JOURNAL (Mar. 1, 2015), http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/as_law_school_enrollment_drops_experts_disagree_on_whether_the_bottom; See also, Elizabeth Olson and David Segal, *A Steep Slide in Law School Accelerates*, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 17, 2014), <http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2014/12/17/law-school-enrollment-falls-to-lowest-level-since-1987/> (discussing how a “growing number of college graduates are examining the costs of attending law school and the available jobs and deciding that it is not worth the money”).

⁴ Alfred Brophy, posting *LSAC Data and Predicting Number of Applicants for Fall 2015*, FACULTY LOUNGE (June 09, 2015), <http://www.thefacultylounge.org/2015/06/lsac-data-and->

of the recession and the legal market recovers, it still remains unclear whether the demand for law jobs will recover to the heights reached at the turn of the century.

Law schools, as well as their affiliated universities, have recognized that enrollment challenges may persist for the indefinite future and have begun to address such challenges head on. Many are undergoing major budget restructuring to ensure that they survive and thrive in the future. Some are considering drastic measures such as the proposed sale of a law school⁵ and facilities,⁶ law school mergers,⁷ and faculty lay-offs.⁸ The obvious change being felt at all but the most elite and heavily endowed institutions takes the form of budget cuts. Budgets are being cut at the state level to state-supported universities as state governments try to correct their own budgetary shortfalls experienced during the recession. Budgets at private law schools are being slashed as lower enrollment yields fewer tuition dollars. The job description for deans these days includes running a law school with a significantly reduced budget.

One item in nearly every law school budget is devoted to law reviews. These budgets seem to have remained intact to this point in large part because the single biggest expense of a law journal is the cost of printing and mailing copies of the publication to subscribers.⁹ Thus far, deans have recognized that this cost is not decreasing and there is little a journal can do to minimize this expense if it continues to function as a traditional law review. The costs of publication and mailing are compounded by the fact that subscriptions to traditional law reviews are decreasing, as law libraries themselves cut their

predicting-number-of-applicants-for-fall-2015-part-17.html.

⁵ Diane Knitch, *With Owner's Departure, Future of Charleston School of Law Uncertain*, POST & COURIER (Apr. 1, 2015), <http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150401/PC16/150409922/1177/with-owner-x2019-s-departure-future-of-charleston-school-of-law-uncertain>.

⁶ Gary Warth, *Dean Optimistic About Law School's Future*, SAN DIEGO UNION TRIB. (Dec. 12, 2014), <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/dec/12/dean-predicts-restructured-debt-will-save-law/>.

⁷ *Two Law Schools in Minnesota Will Merge*, INSIDE HIGHER ED (Feb. 19, 2015), <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2015/02/19/2-law-schools-minnesota-will-merge>; Dan Filer, posting *Rutgers University Approves Merger of Two Law Schools*, FACULTY LOUNGE (Apr. 3, 2015), <http://www.thefacultylounge.org/2015/04/rutgers-university-approves-merger-of-its-law-schools.html>.

⁸ Ashby Jones & Jennifer Smith, *Amid Falling Enrollment, Law Schools Are Cutting Faculty*, WALL ST. J. (July 15, 2013), <http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424127887323664204578607810292433272>.

⁹ Jessica Litman, *Open Access Publishing and the Future of Legal Scholarship: The Economics of Open Access Law Publishing*, 10 LEWIS & CLARK L. REV. 779, 785 (Winter 2006).

budgets and address physical space constraints by cutting back on subscriptions and hard-copy materials in their collections. The future law review format must take into consideration the budgetary structure of the modern law school. With cuts being made across the board, including to other essential line items, journals may not be protected from the budgetary crunch much longer.

In this essay, I investigate online media as a potential future platform for law journals. Legal scholars have made good use of blogs and online law review companions to advance legal discourse. There are advantages and disadvantages to each as platforms for legal scholarship, but neither offers a suitable replacement for the traditional law review. Instead, I conclude that secondary journals, as well as the flagship journals of law schools with lower readership and less funding, should consider transitioning to online-only journals.

II. THE PROGRESSION OF LEGAL E-DISCUOURSE

For the past fifteen years, legal scholars have made excellent use of the Internet as a means for sparking debate and parsing current legal issues. During that time, we have witnessed the inception of the blog, online law review companion journals, and, more recently, online-only law reviews.

Between 2005 and 2010, the legal community saw the inception and dramatic increase in the number of legal blogs.¹⁰ According to legal scholar and pioneering legal blogger Professor Jack Balkin, “blog postings tend to be short and informal. Unlike law review articles, they don’t comprehensively review previous scholarship, and they don’t have lots of citations.”¹¹ Legal blogs also alter “the tempo of legal scholarship and the rate of diffusion of legal knowledge. Law professors don’t have to wait for months to comment on important legal developments – they can post immediately on their blogs.”¹² This offers the legal blogger an advantage in preempting legal scholarship on the same subject disseminated through other,

¹⁰ Matthew T. Bodie, *Thoughts on the New Era of Law Review Companion Sites*, 39 CONN. L. REV. CONTEMPLATIONS 1, 1 (2007); *see also* Daniel Solove, *Law Professor Blogger Census (Version 5.1)*, CONCURRING OPS. (Oct. 5, 2006), http://concurringopinions.com/archives/2006/10/law_professor_b_6.html (stating the statistical data that shows the drastic increase).

¹¹ Jack M. Balkin, *Online Legal Scholarship: The Medium and the Message*, 116 YALE L.J. POCKET PART 23, 25 (2006).

¹² *Id.* at 25-26 (citation omitted).

slower media, essentially permitting the blogger to call “Dibs!” on a current research topic. On the upside, this speed “moves the conversation and analysis of legal issues at a much faster pace. On the other hand, it rewards instant commentary, which may be less thoughtful” than traditional legal scholarship.¹³ Although this animal is quite different from a traditional law review, legal blogs have had a significant impact on legal discourse over the past decade.¹⁴

Emerging very quickly on the heels of the legal blog, the Yale Law Journal launched the first online law review “companion” in 2005 – the Pocket Part.¹⁵ Yale’s Pocket Part has served as a model for other online companion journals following in its footsteps.¹⁶ The law review companion is an online-only publication, which features “short responses to articles in the print journal,” as well as “short essays written with an eye towards cyberspace style and substance.”¹⁷ Since the Yale Law Journal launched the Pocket Part, at least twenty-four other law journals have created similar companion journals.¹⁸

¹³ *Id.* at 26.

¹⁴ Bodie, *supra* note 10, at 8.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 2; *see also* Yale Law School, <https://www.law.yale.edu/yls-today/news/yale-law-journal-unveils-innovative-online-publication-pocket-part> (last visited Dec. 27, 2015) (stating the original creation date of the Pocket Part).

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Bodie, *supra* note 10, at 2.

¹⁸ *See, e.g.*, ACCORD- ARIZONA SUMMIT L. REV., <http://www.arizonasummitlawreview.org/index.php/category/accord/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Arizona Summit Law Review, previously titled Phoenix Law Review); B.U. INT’L L.J., <http://www.bu.edu/ilj/> (last visited Jan. 13, 2016) (companion to Boston University International Law Journal); BROOK. LAW SCH. PRACTICUM, <http://practicum.brooklaw.edu/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to all Brooklyn Law School journals); CLR ONLINE, <http://www.chapmanlawreview.com/archives/category/clr-online> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Chapman Law Review); ET CETERA, <http://www.clevstlrev.org/et-cetera/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Cleveland State Law Review); CBLR ONLINE, <http://cblr.columbia.edu/cblr-online> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Columbia Business Law Review); COLUM. L. REV- SIDEBAR, <http://columbialawreview.org/sidebar/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Columbia Law Review); CORNELL L. REV. ONLINE, <http://cornelllawreview.org/clronlineissue/> (last visited Jan. 13, 2016) (companion to Cornell Law Review); DISCOURSE- DRAKE L. REV., <http://drakelawreview.org/discourse/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Drake Law Review); DREXEL L. REV.ONLINE, <http://drexel.edu/law/lawreview/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Drexel Law Review); DUKE J. CONST. L. & PUB. POL’Y - SIDEBAR http://scholarship.law.duke.edu/djclpp_sidebar/ (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Duke Journal of Constitutional Law and Public Policy); ONLINE COMPANIONS- FORDHAM INT’L L. J., <http://fordhamilj.org/online-companion/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Fordham International Law Journal); CITY SQUARE, <http://urbanlawjournal.com/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Fordham Urban Law Journal); ARGUENDO, <http://www.gwlr.org/arguendo/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to George Washing-

Companion journals attempt to achieve multiple goals. Like blogs, they offer a forum for timely and current commentary on the law.¹⁹ They also allow law reviews to include “additional content without taking up additional print-journal space.”²⁰ Finally, they serve to attract online readers to the original material found in the print journal.²¹ One way they attract readers to the journal’s offline content is by distilling the lengthier print articles into more easily digestible summaries.²²

The growth of blogs and online companion journals has allowed authors to tackle “low-hanging fruit” more quickly than through traditional print journals.²³ Because these media allow quick responses to current legal news, scholars can jump on these topics immediately without the delay caused by the submission, editorial, and publication processes associated with print publications. This leads to exciting and useful current debate. It also pushes the envelope on traditional research, driving forward the conversation in a way that “may improve the quality of later scholarly work.”²⁴

However, the quick pace of blogs and law review companions also removes many viable research topics from the realm of potential subjects traditional journals would otherwise cover. This increases

ton Law Review); GLR ONLINE, http://georgialawreview.org/glr_online/ (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Georgia Law Review); HOUS. BUS. & TAX L. J., <http://www.hbtj.org/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Houston Business and Tax Law Journal); BULLETIN, <http://ilr.law.uiowa.edu/current-volume> (last visited Mar. 13, 2016) (companion to Iowa Law Review); RICH. J. L. & PUB. INT., <http://rjolpi.richmond.edu/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Richmond Journal of Law and Public Interest); TOLLE LEGE, http://lawweb2009.law.villanova.edu/lawreview/?page_id=1391 (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Villanova Law Review); DE JURE, <http://umkcclawreview.org/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to UMKC Law Review); JCL ONLINE, <https://www.law.upenn.edu/journals/conlaw/jclonline/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law); THE LAW REVIEW ONLINE, - U.S.F. L. REV., <http://www.usfca.edu/law/lawreview/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to University of San Francisco Law Review); UTAH ONLAW, <http://epubs.utah.edu/index.php/utahonlaw> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Utah Law Review); EN BANC, <http://www.vanderbiltlawreview.org/enbanc/about-enbanc/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Vanderbilt Law Review); WAKE FOREST L. REV.-COMMON LAW, <http://wakeforestlawreview.com/category/online/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (companion to Wake Forest Law Review).

¹⁹ Bodie, *supra* note 10, at 4.

²⁰ Bodie, *supra* note 10, at 4.

²¹ Bodie, *supra* note 10, at 4.

²² Stephen I. Vladeck, *The Law Reviews vs. the Courts: Two Thoughts From the Ivory Tower*, 39 CONNTEMPLATIONS 1, 9 (2007).

²³ Balkin, *supra* note 11, at 26.

²⁴ Balkin, *supra* note 11, at 26.

the competition for quality research topics that will not be preempted, decreasing the number of subjects on which traditional journals may choose to publish, especially in journals with lower readership. While law review companions may raise the reputations of the well-ranked journals by picking off the day's hottest issues, this does not bode well for the future quality of law reviews from the lesser-ranked masses.

The most recent entry into the online market for legal scholarship is the online-only law journal. As of 2007, online-only original law review content was "fairly sparse."²⁵ In the years since, however, the number of journals with purely original online content has grown exponentially.²⁶ Online articles "can also change the style of

²⁵ Bodie, *supra* note 10, at 4.

²⁶ See, e.g., ANNALS OF HEALTH LAW, <http://www.luc.edu/law/centers/healthlaw/annals/index.html> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); ARIZONA JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY, <http://www.ajelp.com/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); ASIAN PACIFIC LAW & POLICY JOURNAL, <http://www.hawaii.edu/aplpj/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); BERKELEY JOURNAL OF ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS LAW, <http://www.bjesl.net/index.html> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); BERKELEY JOURNAL OF MIDDLE EASTERN & ISLAMIC LAW, <http://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/jmeil/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); CHICAGO-KENT JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENERGY LAW, <http://libtest.kentlaw.edu/studentorgs/ckjeel/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); CHICAGO-KENT JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE LAW, <http://studentorgs.kentlaw.iit.edu/jicl/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); CHILDREN'S LEGAL RIGHTS JOURNAL, <http://luc.edu/law/student/publications/clrj/index.html> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); CINCINNATI INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & COMPUTER LAW JOURNAL, <http://www.law.uc.edu/journals/ip-journal> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); CIVIL LAW COMMENTARIES, <http://www.law.tulane.edu/tlscenters/eason/index.aspx?id=12946> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); CORNELL HUMAN RESOURCES REVIEW, <http://www.cornellhrreview.org/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); CORPORATE TRANSACTIONAL LAW JOURNAL, http://law.capital.edu/Corporate_Transactional_Law_Journal/ (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); CREIGHTON INTERNATIONAL COMPARATIVE LAW JOURNAL, <http://law.creighton.edu/current-students/student-resources/international-comparative-law-journal> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); DEPAUL RULE OF LAW JOURNAL, <http://law.depaul.edu/student-resources/student-activities/student-organizations/rule-of-law-journal/Pages/default.aspx> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); DUKE LAW & TECHNOLOGY REVIEW, <http://dltr.law.duke.edu/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); EAST ASIA LAW REVIEW, <https://www.law.upenn.edu/journals/ealr/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); EMORY CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW, <http://law.emory.edu/ecgar/index.html> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); GLOBAL MARKETS LAW REVIEW, <http://globalmarkets.jmls.edu/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); GONZAGA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, <https://www.law.gonzaga.edu/gjil/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); IMPUNITY WATCH LAW JOURNAL, <http://impunitywatch.com/category/news/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); JOHN MARSHALL REVIEW OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW, <http://ripl.jmls.edu/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); JOURNAL OF ANIMAL & ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, <http://www.jael-online.org/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); JOURNAL OF CIVIL LAW STUDIES, <http://digitalcommons.law.lsu.edu/jcls/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); LAW JOURNAL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, <https://ljsj.wordpress.com/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); JOURNAL OF THE LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE, http://www.lwionline.org/journal_of_the_lwi.html (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW,

legal scholarship. Articles posted online still have a traditional style because most of them are destined for traditional law reviews.”²⁷ The format and future of these journals continues to evolve.

III. THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT (BLUE LIGHT)

While blogs and law review companion journals may quickly advance the public debate on legal scholarship, they are not a viable future platform for the vast majority of law reviews. Although they offer unparalleled speed in delivering current content, blogs do not offer the requisite degree of rigor or depth of analysis offered to satisfactorily replace the traditional law review publication. Moreover, blog posts are not easily searchable and “generally have a short shelf life.”²⁸ Although online companion journals also offer speed in disseminating legal discourse, this platform performs best when drawing attention to traditional print counterparts. And with the hottest topics already being covered in the multitude of blogs and already-existing companion journals, investment in additional companion journals, especially companions to journals that are not already highly ranked, may only serve to dilute the quality of legal issues being tackled. The best low-hanging fruit is already being picked.

<http://digitalcommons.lmunet.edu/lmulrev/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); PITTSBURGH JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, <http://pjeph.law.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/pjeph> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); RESOLVED: JOURNAL OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, <http://www.charlestonlaw.edu/Current-Students/Student-Organizations/Resolved-Journal-for-Dispute-Resolution.aspx> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); RICHMOND JOURNAL OF LAW & TECHNOLOGY, <http://jolt.richmond.edu/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); RUTGERS LAW RECORD, <http://lawrecord.com/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); SEATTLE JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, <http://www.sjel.org/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); STANFORD JOURNAL OF ANIMAL LAW & POLICY, <https://journals.law.stanford.edu/stanford-journal-animal-law-policy> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); STANFORD JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW & POLICY, <https://journals.law.stanford.edu/sjclp> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); STANFORD TECHNOLOGY LAW REVIEW, <https://journals.law.stanford.edu/stanford-technology-law-review> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); SYRACUSE JOURNAL OF LAW & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, <http://slace.syr.edu/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); SYRACUSE JOURNAL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, <http://jost.syr.edu/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); THE ILS JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, <https://ublawjil.wordpress.com> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); TOURO INTERNATIONAL LAW REVIEW, <http://www.tourolaw.edu/ilr/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); TOURO JOURNAL OF RACE, GENDER, & ETHNICITY, <http://www.tourolaw.edu/journalrge/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); WESTERN NEW ENGLAND LAW REVIEW, <http://www1.law.wne.edu/lawreview/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016); WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY SPORTS LAW JOURNAL, <http://www.willamette.edu/wucl/resources/journals/sportslaw/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016).

²⁷ Balkin, *supra* note 11, at 25.

²⁸ Bodie, *supra* note 10, at 7.

I suggest that law schools consider making the move taken by several schools in the past few years²⁹ – to convert all secondary journals and even flagship law reviews with low readership to an online-only, open access format. These journals should ditch their hard copy counterparts for basic economic reasons.

The single largest line item in any law review budget is the print edition.³⁰ “The cost of printed law review pages renders additional published content quite expensive.”³¹ The average cost to print and ship a four-issue law review volume is upwards of \$40,000.³² Subscription revenues average \$16,000 per year and royalties from research databases average \$8,000.³³ Thus, the average law school subsidizes each journal on campus in the average amount of \$16,000 per year.³⁴

The \$16,000 annual deficit per law journal is an expense the modern law school can no longer afford. In many cases, the print journal is an albatross and should be thrown aside. By moving to an online-only model, journals would still collect royalties averaging \$8,000 per year. While they would sacrifice \$16,000 per year in subscription income by providing open online access, online-only journals would save the \$40,000 printing and shipping expense incurred each year. If you’re following my math, that would have online-only journals netting \$8,000 a year – a \$24,000 improvement over their traditional, hard copy counterparts.

I suggest that secondary journals and even flagship journals with low readership move to online-only journals, imposing the same degree of rigor to vetting every article to ensure its quality and to present staff members and editors with stellar, educational experiences.

²⁹ See, e.g., *Annals of Health Law*, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO, <http://www.luc.edu/law/centers/healthlaw/annals/index.html> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (moved from print to online in Fall 2014); *Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal*, HAWAIIEDU, <http://blog.hawaii.edu/aplpj/about/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (moved from print to online-only); *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*, LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE, http://www.lwionline.org/journal_of_the_lwi.html (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (moved online in Fall 2015); *International Law Review*, TOURO LAW, <http://www.tourolaw.edu/ilr/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (moved from print to online-only); *About the Review*, WESTERN NEW ENGLAND LAW REVIEW, <http://www1.law.wne.edu/lawreview/> (last visited Mar. 16, 2016) (moved from print to online-only).

³⁰ Litman, *supra* note 9, at 785.

³¹ Bodie, *supra* note 10, at 4.

³² Litman, *supra* note 9, at 786.

³³ Litman, *supra* note 9, at 785-86.

³⁴ Litman, *supra* note 9, at 786.

To maintain their influence in the academy, these journals should ensure that all online content is as searchable on Westlaw and Lexis as any print material would be. Open access, online-only content can preserve all the substance of the traditional law review without the expense. Online media “reduce[s] the cost of publication and data storage, and they lower the costs of speakers and audiences finding each other.”³⁵ It makes overwhelming economic sense.

Moreover, the online-only format opens additional doors to traditional law reviews aside from the economic benefits. Journals can use the limitless online space to publish original, traditional articles, as well as responses to those articles. Law reviews can increase the number of essays published, without any added expense or space concerns. Journals can offer online-only symposia. The online-only platform allows law reviews to expand creatively without the limits of the traditional publisher.

With the exception of those law schools with never-ending endowments, I can’t imagine a dean who doesn’t have a list a mile long of how she would spend an extra \$24,000 per journal each year. To name just a few uses for such money that would stay true to the goals of the traditional law review, schools could use recouped funds to offer competitive writing contests with financial awards to increase the quality of the school’s publications. Law schools could offer honoraria to academics who publish in their journals to increase the profile of their readership and assuage the stigma of publishing in an online-only journal. Law schools could use the money to host more live symposia, reinvigorating academic exchanges quashed by dwindling travel and speaker budgets. With so many uses for such significant savings in these tight economic times, I wonder, “What are we waiting for?”

³⁵ Balkin, *supra* note 11, at 27.